

**RULES
OF
TENNESSEE STATE MINERAL TEST HOLE REGULATORY BOARD**

**CHAPTER 0950-1-5
WELL ABANDONMENT**

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0950-1-5-.01 PLUGGING WELLS. All wells which are to be abandoned shall be plugged in accordance with the procedures outlined herein.

Authority: T.C.A. Section 58-1904. Administrative History. Original Rule filed May 18, 1976, effective June 17, 1976.

0950-1-5-.02 SUGGESTED PLUGGING PROCEDURE FOR MIDDLE TENNESSEE.

- (1) In all areas where exploration may encounter gas, set NX casing (3 1/2" OD) at least 6 feet into bedrock. Procedure: fill hole with cement, drive in casing, let set up and then drill out cement. Drill hole with gate valve at surface in order to control well if gas is encountered.
- (2) After considerable experimentation by industry, they now find the following method most satisfactory for protecting fresh water zones:
 - (a) Place an effective plug at top of Knox and 1 bag cement across unconformity = + 40' plug.
 - (b) Come up hole to a depth of approximately 200 Feet below lowest adjacent surface terrain. Place effective plugs every 60 Feet followed by cement all the way to surface.

Authority: T.C.A. Section 58-1904. Administrative History. Original Rule filed May 18, 1976, effective June 17, 1976.

0950-1-5-.03 SUGGESTED PLUGGING PROCEDURE FOR THE CUMBERLAND PLATEAU. Shallow drill holes less than 400 feet deep or less than 1,000 feet from the outcrop not encountering underground water shall be plugged by filling or covering the hole adequately with surface material as a safety precaution. Drill holes more than 400 feet deep or more than 1,000 feet from the outcrop shall set effective plugs 25 feet below; each coal seam encountered and fill with cement to 25 feet above each coal seam encountered. Sufficient plugs must be efficiently placed in number and properly located as to prevent commingling of oil, gas, salt water, and fresh water from one zone to another.

Authority: T.C.A. Section 56-1904. Administrative History. Original Rule filed May 18, 1976, effective June 17, 1976.

0950-1-5-.04 SUGGESTED PLUGGING PROCEDURE FOR EAST TENNESSEE. Use six (6) to nine (9) bags of cement poured into the bottom of a drill hole and extending upward at the rate of 60 feet per bag of cement up to the chert matrix layer. This will bring the cemented hole above any potential contaminated water in the East Tennessee District. Then one bag of cement will be used to case the top of the drill hole.

(Rule 0950-1-5-.04, continued)

Authority: *T.C.A. Section 58-1904. Administrative History. Original Rule filed May 18, 1976, effective June 17, 1976.*

0950-1-5-.05 PLUG AND ABANDON REPORT. Work performed under the permit must be reported to the Supervisor in the Plug and Abandon Report (Form M-P + A) within ninety (90) days after completing the work unless permission has been obtained by the Supervisor to keep a well open.

Authority: *T.C.A. Section 58-1904. Administrative History. Original Rule filed May 18, 1976, effective June 17, 1976.*